

New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club
Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



The Thunder Heard

January-February 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

2010 Meeting Schedule

Feb 7	Sweetheart Brunch
	Harold Deli??
March 7	Walter Strohmaier
April	Bob & Shelly Belli
April 17	Edison Tour
May 2	Tune Up Clinic
May	Dominick & Eva Tucci
June	Phil & Dorothy Guidone
July	Susan & Anthony Gaeta
August 8	Mini-Concours
September	Donna & Bill Jessie
October	John & Sandra Bolger
November	Frank Gloss/Mary Green

The March meeting will be on the 7th at 2 PM and will be hosted by Walt Strohmaier
31 Brentwood Drive, E. Hanover
RSVP 973-887-7726 or
wstrohma@opronline.net

If you cannot host your meeting as scheduled, it is your responsibility to get someone to switch with.

Please let Joanne Seiler know at least 2 months before your scheduled month that YOU WILL BE HOSTING the meeting and give the date/time/etc.



President's Message



Ok – we’re off and running with brand new year. It’s gotta be better than 2009. Lois Martin snuck under the line with the last injury of 2009 with her broken ankle. I hope she is doing better. I spoke with Vince DeAndrea who is coming along well and hopes to be able to do the Harold’s trip in late February. It was scheduled to be in January but he will not be ready yet. Other than the meeting and Joanne and my 50’s dance, there is nothing else club related going on in January. So unless you are traveling to somewhere warm, stay home and keep safe.

A note to all board members, Our annual board meeting will be held one hour before the monthly meeting hosted by Ron Case.

Phil Guidone was able to reserve the Schooley’s Mountain pavilion for the Mini Concours in August. Good work both Phil and Joanne Seiler for finding the location. It will cost a little more then Dow Meadow but I think it will be worth it.

I was impressed with the turn out for the Christmas party. It was a record! We saw some old faces we haven’t seen in a while and some brand new faces too. Santa did a great job. Special thanks to our Vice President Arlene Kubat for putting it all together. Also thanks to Eva Tucci for the centerpieces which were all hand made by her. The DJ?...well what can I say – anyone willing to put on a chicken hat and make a fool of himself to make everyone smile – must really like and think a lot of all the club member (and he does, I hope you know that).

Here’s hoping everybody had a terrific holiday season – I know 2010 will be a great year for all of us.

Pat LeStrange



February



A few words from Alec

Now that the holidays are behind us, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

If you haven't already done it, consider making plans to attend the CTCI convention this coming June in Dayton, Ohio. At this time we have approx. 8 members taking their Birds there. Anyone interested in going contact other members who are going if you are interested in going. Some of us are caravanning and if you would like to join us feel free to do so.

We will be discussing this at our upcoming meetings. Time is short!!

Happy Motoring
Alec

My TBird – Walt Strohmaier (and adventure)



My project began in 1997, when after a triple bypass operation, I told my Bride Mildred that I had to fulfill a dream of owning a Little Bird. She agreed, not realizing the pile of you know what I was going to get into. After looking at several projects, I purchased one that was running and did not look too bad. Reality soon descended on me, for after a few small repairs it became very clear that this was not a restoration, but a resurrection. I did not belong to a club nor did I know the experts, a BIG MISTAKE!!!! I decided to do a frame off and create a better idea than Henry with upgraded components to make my Bird a better driver on today's super highways. (Cont'd on Page 5)



Vice President's Message

The weather was snowy and cold, but we had the biggest turn out of members that I can remember. Our Christmas party was great. Eva Tucci made all the Christmas tree center pieces. Thanks Eva, you did a beautiful job as usual. We raffled them off (I do not remember who won them). I hope whoever won them enjoyed them. We had a picture frame of lottery tickets that was raffled off and was won by Merry Case-I hope she had a winner. Thanks Aileen for putting the lottery tickets in the frame. Santa did not feel up to par this year so he sent one of his best helpers. Santa-thanks for handing out the gifts. The club gave the men calendars (all with the NJORTC cars on it). Thanks to Mike and Wendy for all the work they did on them – they were great. Each woman received a cookie plate with a cookie recipe engraved on the back.

Paul Adamoff donated little LCD flash lights. Lucille and Frank picked up the cookies (they were sooo good). Of course, we must thank our DJ, Pat. Every year he gets better and we also must thank his helper, Joanne. (I loved Pat's Santa hat). We must not forget the chicken dance – what a good laugh!!!. Also thank you Pat for putting pictures of all our events in 2009 on a DVD – we enjoyed watching it.

Thank you Donna for arranging the Toys for Tots gifts. Thanks to all who brought in a gift. I know whoever received the toys appreciated them- a little gift to make a boy or girl happy. If I forgot someone, I am sorry. I appreciate everyone's help, it makes for a great party. The cocktail hour was great and the buffet and dessert was delicious. I believe everyone had a great time – I know Joe and I did. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Joe and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Try to stay warm and see you at the next meeting.



Happy Valentine's Day

Membership News



Charlie & Izabela Costa Feb 8th



Joe Matrone Jan 22nd
 Domna Jessie Jan 20th
 Merry Case Jan 29th
 Rich Martin Jan 30th
 Dorothy Guidone Feb 1st
 Eva Tuccl Feb 6th
 Vince DeAndrea Feb 16th



Vince DeAndrea

Lois(Lane)Martin

Congratulations

To our esteemed president, Pat, who is going to be a grandpa again. Daughter Danielle and husband Kian are expecting their first born in August

Condolences

To Phil Guidone on the recent passing of his sister

A Welcome to Our Newest Members

Joe & Lorri Matrone of Suffern, NY.
56 and 03 Bird

Bob & Joan Notar of Pompton Plains, NJ
57 Bird and 65 GTO

NJORTC Website

Wendy and Mike have finished the revamping of our web site and it's super. Go to www.njortc.org and see it. Between the web site and the calendars, Mike and Wendy sure have been busy.

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Registered Agent	Vince DeAndrea
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Membership Chairman	Alec Johnstone
Name Badges	John Pyrros
Jackets	Joe Kubat
Grill Plaques & Hats	Frank Chabala
Club Historian	Lucille Chabala
Club Photographer	Joanne Seiler
Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Bruce Corbett
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
Webmaster	Wendy Meehan



Happy Birthday George and Abe

The Christmas Party

This was a great party. See Arlene's column for the highlights of a great event. Not only did we see a member that is one of the longest with the club (the Szura's) but we had a brand new member attending his first official meeting (the Matrones). It must have been beginner's luck as the Matrone's walked away as winners of multiple drawings.

Santa was quite a hit. Not only with our members, but he attracted a bevy of young ladies attending a sweet sixteen party next door. And who could forget Pat and Arlene up front doing the chicken dance!!!!



Lottery Ticket Picture Frame

I want your input. Please send any items to be included by the middle of the month if possible. They can be e-mailed or snail mailed to me. Pictures, articles, tech, etc. Paul Schroll
pts1231@aol.com

CLUB EVENTS

Sweetheart Brunch

This is on **February 7th**. At the Bethwood, 38 Lackawanna Ave., Totowa, NJ. Come and bring your sweetheart and enjoy an excellent brunch. Call Lucille (973-731-9133) if you plan to go. Cost is 38.00 per person. Get your check and reservation in now to Lucille.

REWIND THE 50'S HOP

While this is not an "official" club event, Pat & Joanne's 50's dance is being held on **January 30th** at the Ridgefield Park Elk's Lodge. There may still be spaces available so call Pat or Joanne. \$30 per person.

Thomas Edison Tour

Lucille has made all the arrangements for the tour of the Edison Lab and home, which is scheduled for **April 17th**. Make sure you put this on you calendar and let's hope for a sunny day to debut our TBirds for the new year.

FOR SALE

Non-Porthole Top. Excellent condition. Fits all years. Rolling cart included. Will not ship. Will deliver within 50 mile radius of Lincoln Park, NJ. \$3,000. Call Joe, 973-900-1923

WANTED

Pat is looking to borrow a 8mm VCR PLAYER/CAMCORDER. This is the type that plays 8mm or HI 8 video tapes His is broken and he is trying to convert his old VCR tapes to DVD. Please contact Pat if you have one or know where one can be found.

CTCI Int'l Convention

This is being held in June 15-20, 2010 at the Wright-Paterson AFB. Make your plans now for attending. Already we have about 8 cars that are going. Book rooms early as there may be a shortage.

My TBird – Continued



3 weeks before leaving for Tulsa

The first order of business was to take it apart, disassemble all components, clean and rebuild. Everything was taken to Redi-Strip of Allentown to have it all come out as new. The body and all pieces, frame and all attaching pieces were to be done. Everything came out as expected, new, ready for coating and rebuilding. Except for the body. It was a great disappearing act for it was full of big holes, Swiss cheese and panels that had totally vanished. Being a hands on guy, I went and purchased all the panels needed, a mig welder and started to work. Not as easy as it looks and did not take long to come to the conclusion that this would not work. I went to a couple of body shops and found the cost to do it were astronomical so depression set in and the project went into limbo for awhile.

Then in February of 2000 I went to the Atlantic City auction car show and met a vendor selling a 57 body that came from Ariz. The project now got off the ground and with planned updates the Bird flew again in the spring of 2004. Mildred and I did local car shows, club meets, Memorial Day and 4th of July parades, the conventions in Cleveland, Charlotte, NC, Bedminster, NJ and then Parsippany.

In the spring of 2009, I decided to upgrade some more and tore the old Bird down again to add disc brakes to the rear, install a Ford AOD trans, Jet Hot coated headers w/3" collectors, cat converters with Maxflow mufflers and 2 inch exhaust pipes. I completed the project 6/30, packed my bags and left July 1st for the ride of my life. (See next month's newsletter for that ride).

TECH TIPS

Ball Joint Replacement

In August we mentioned that the Tbird ball joints are almost indestructible. If they have to be replaced, then below is a guide to replacing them. This article was written by Barry Thomas and appeared in the Early Bird of July/August 1979 and has been somewhat edited and has material added by your editor which was not in the original submission.

Before you start work, round up the required parts. Inspect the ball joint area to determine if the upper and lower snubbers should be replaced due to age cracks, hardness or general deterioration-also the stabilizer (sway bar) end bushings.

In addition to the usual wenches and other standard tools, you will need a ball joint removal tool and a hydraulic floor jack or a good scissors type jack. The ball joint tool can be one made specifically for ball joint removal offered by a place like Harbor Freight or you can buy or rent a front end "pickle fork". This is a tapered tuning fork shaped tool that is wedged in between the ball joint and the spindle. The upper and lower ball joints are two different sizes so you will need a "fork" for each size. The smaller size is the same as that used for tie rods. Another method I use is a small "porta power" hydraulic jack between the upper and lower ball joint studs to maintain pressure on them. I prefer the roll around hydraulic jacks because of their greater stability and ease of use. They usually can be rented locally or borrowed from a friend or a friendly gas station.

Once the front end is jacked up and the car otherwise supported by wooden or concrete blocks under the frame just in front of the muffler, proceed as follows:

1. Remove the tire/wheel assembly
2. Place the jack under (just touching but not supporting) the lower A frame.
3. Remove the cotter pin and nut on the Lower ball joint.
4. Remove the ball joint stud from the spindle
 - a. If using the pickle fork, drive it in with heavy hammer until the joint separates from the spindle.
 - b. If using the special tool, follow the manufacturers directions
 - c. If using the "porta power, place in between the upper and lower studs (protecting the upper stud with a large socket). Tighten the

(continued on page 7)

MORE CHRISTMAS



What Kind of Fools are WE!!!!



CRUISE NIGHTS

CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

Jan 30-Ridgefield Park Elks-50's Dance put on by Pat and Joanne

Feb 26-28- Atlantic City Auction

If any one has info on shows and swap meets in Feb. and forward please let me have the particulars for the newsletter.



Santa and his presents.



Will we or won't we have 6 more

weeks of winter?





How about you ? John??



Have you been a good little girl ?



Tech Tips (Continued)

The tool sufficiently enough to maintain pressure but not enough to push the stud out of the spindle. Hit the spindle with a large hammer directly beside the ball joint tapered stud. Usually the tool will fall off, dirt will cloud the air and the ball joint will remain in place. Try again. Eventually, the stud will pull out of the spindle.

5. Lift the spindle off the stud , swing it to one side and support it.
6. Remove the bolts and rubber snubber stud that attaches the joint to the A frame and pull the ball joint assembly out.
7. Install the new joint and rubber bumper.
8. Place the spindle over the ball joint stud, install the nut, torque to spec, line up the slots in the nut with the hole in the stud and finish off with a new cotter pin and grease fitting. Grease the joint.
9. If the upper ball joint are to be replaced, follow the same procedure as used for the lower ball joints.

Since Tbird ball joints are not riveted or pressed in place they are easy to replace. The jack located under the lower A frame is to prevent the lower A frame from suddenly moving downward due to spring pressure once the ball joint stud comes out of the spindle. (Continued on page 8)



Pat brought along a little friend

Tech Tips (Continued)

The coil spring will not fly out as the shock absorber was not removed; but the shock could possibly be bent or have its end damaged if the A frame was suddenly allowed to travel too far downward with no support under it.

As with any front suspension work, have the front end aligned after you have installed all the new parts.



The Guidones and the Jessies cutting a Rug

The early bird gets the worm – but it's the second mouse that gets the cheese